

FHWA Vehicle Classes with Definitions

1. **Motorcycles** -- All two or three-wheeled motorized vehicles. Typical vehicles in this category have saddle type seats and are steered by handlebars rather than steering wheels. This category includes motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, motor-powered bicycles, and three-wheel motorcycles. This vehicle type may be reported at the option of the State.
2. **Passenger Cars** -- All sedans, coupes, and station wagons manufactured primarily for the purpose of carrying passengers and including those passenger cars pulling recreational or other light trailers.
3. **Other Two-Axle, Four-Tire Single Unit Vehicles** -- All two-axle, four-tire, vehicles, other than passenger cars. Included in this classification are pickups, panels, vans, and other vehicles such as campers, motor homes, ambulances, hearses, carryalls, and minibuses. Other two-axle, four-tire single-unit vehicles pulling recreational or other light trailers are included in this classification. *Because automatic vehicle classifiers have difficulty distinguishing class 3 from class 2, these two classes may be combined into class 2.*
4. **Buses** -- All vehicles manufactured as traditional passenger-carrying buses with two axles and six tires or three or more axles. This category includes only traditional buses (including school buses) functioning as passenger-carrying vehicles. Modified buses should be considered to be a truck and should be appropriately classified.

NOTE: In reporting information on trucks the following criteria should be used:

- a. Truck tractor units traveling without a trailer will be considered single-unit trucks.
 - b. A truck tractor unit pulling other such units in a "saddle mount" configuration will be considered one single-unit truck and will be defined only by the axles on the pulling unit.
 - c. Vehicles are defined by the number of axles in contact with the road. Therefore, "floating" axles are counted only when in the down position.
 - d. The term "trailer" includes both semi- and full trailers.
5. **Two-Axle, Six-Tire, Single-Unit Trucks** -- All vehicles on a single frame including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with two axles and dual rear wheels.
 6. **Three-Axle Single-Unit Trucks** -- All vehicles on a single frame including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with three axles.
 7. **Four or More Axle Single-Unit Trucks** -- All trucks on a single frame with four or more axles.
 8. **Four or Fewer Axle Single-Trailer Trucks** -- All vehicles with four or fewer axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
 9. **Five-Axle Single-Trailer Trucks** -- All five-axle vehicles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
 10. **Six or More Axle Single-Trailer Trucks** -- All vehicles with six or more axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.

11. **Five or fewer Axle Multi-Trailer Trucks** -- All vehicles with five or fewer axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
12. **Six-Axle Multi-Trailer Trucks** -- All six-axle vehicles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
13. **Seven or More Axle Multi-Trailer Trucks** -- All vehicles with seven or more axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.